

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☒

Property Name: Knepp Gas Station Inventory Number: G-V-A-045  
Address: 3209 Garrett Highway (Rt. 219&50 - Northwest Corner) Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no  
City: Oakland Zip Code: 21550 County: Garrett  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Table Rock Md/WV  
Property Owner: Stephen E. Knepp Sr. Tax Account ID Number: 08-001715  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 24 Tax Map Number: 95  
Project: Roth Rock Wind Power Project; Garrett Co. Agency: MD Public Service Commission  
Agency Prepared By: Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc.  
Preparer's Name: Paula Reed Date Prepared: 4/27/2006  
Documentation is presented in: MIHP# G-V-A-045, Maryland Coal Region Historic Sites Survey, 1981  
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no  
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Property and Justification:** *(Please attach map and photo)*

This building which once housed a store and gas station stands on the northwest corner of the intersection of U.S. 50 and U.S. 219 in Redhouse. The gas station was surveyed by MHT in 1981. The three-bay frame structure stands on a poured concrete basement which is open on the southwest side. The weatherboard siding has been covered with asbestos shingles. The gas station has 1/1 windows and a central brick chimney. The canopy and gas pumps have been removed. A one-story wing extends from the northeast side. In the 1920s, Benjamin Knepp built the gas station in the northwest corner of the Redhouse intersection, according to Lee B. Shafer's unpublished history of the Redhouse area, 1976.

**Evaluation:**

This gas station is not associated with local events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history nor significant persons of the past, National Register Criteria A and B. Although Benjamin Knepp, builder of the store and gas station may have some local significance for development of the Redhouse intersection, there is not documented evidence that he had a significant impact on the history of the western Maryland coal region, or of the more local southwest corner of Garrett County, thus not meeting Criterion B. The building is not an example of a significant architectural type, style, or period of construction, nor

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

**MHT Comments:**

Jonathan Sager  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

6/26/06  
Date

NA  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

200601643

G-V-A-045

Knepp Gas Station

Page 2

does it retain distinctive visual qualities of design, materials, or workmanship under Criterion C, to the extent that it could be considered individually eligible. The building has lost architectural integrity through the removal of features such as the canopy and gas pumps. The Knepp Gas Station is therefore recommended as ineligible for individual nomination to the National Register. However, although it has been altered, the gas station retains its basic form and would contribute to a potential Redhouse National Register Historic District.

Archaeological assessment, Criterion D, was not a part of this evaluation of above-ground resources.

## History/Context:

Redhouse developed at the intersection of the Northwestern Turnpike (U.S. Route 50) and the Great Warrior's Path (U.S. Route 219). In about 1832 a two-story frame inn was built at this junction, on the property now occupied by G-V-A-43, the Benjamin F. Knepp Barn, on the southeast corner of the intersection. The red-painted "Red House" tavern and the surrounding hamlet served stagecoaches, covered wagons, settlers, cattle drovers, and other travelers at the busy intersection. The tavern property included a drovers' pasture for use by patrons' herds. Also near the intersection was a tollgate for the turnpike, the only one for the Northwestern Turnpike in Maryland. The original tavern operator was Frederick C. Carstens, who sold the Red House to Peter Shirer in 1841. Then the B & O Railroad made its way through Oakland about eight miles to the north in 1852. Eventually the railroad superseded the highways' freight-hauling function and wagons and drovers dwindled at the Redhouse intersection. Peter Shirer sold the Red House to Jacob Swartzentruber in 1855, who owned it through the Civil War. During the war, soldiers confiscated livestock and forage from the tavern and from surrounding farms. The next owner was Christian Martin who demolished the tavern, and in 1890 transferred the property to his son-in-law William Knepp. In the 1920s, Benjamin Knepp, William's son, acquired the property. Benjamin Knepp removed the house that Christian Martin built and constructed the current dwelling on the property, a stone gambrel-roofed house. He also built the gas station in the northwest corner of the Redhouse intersection, G-V-A-045.

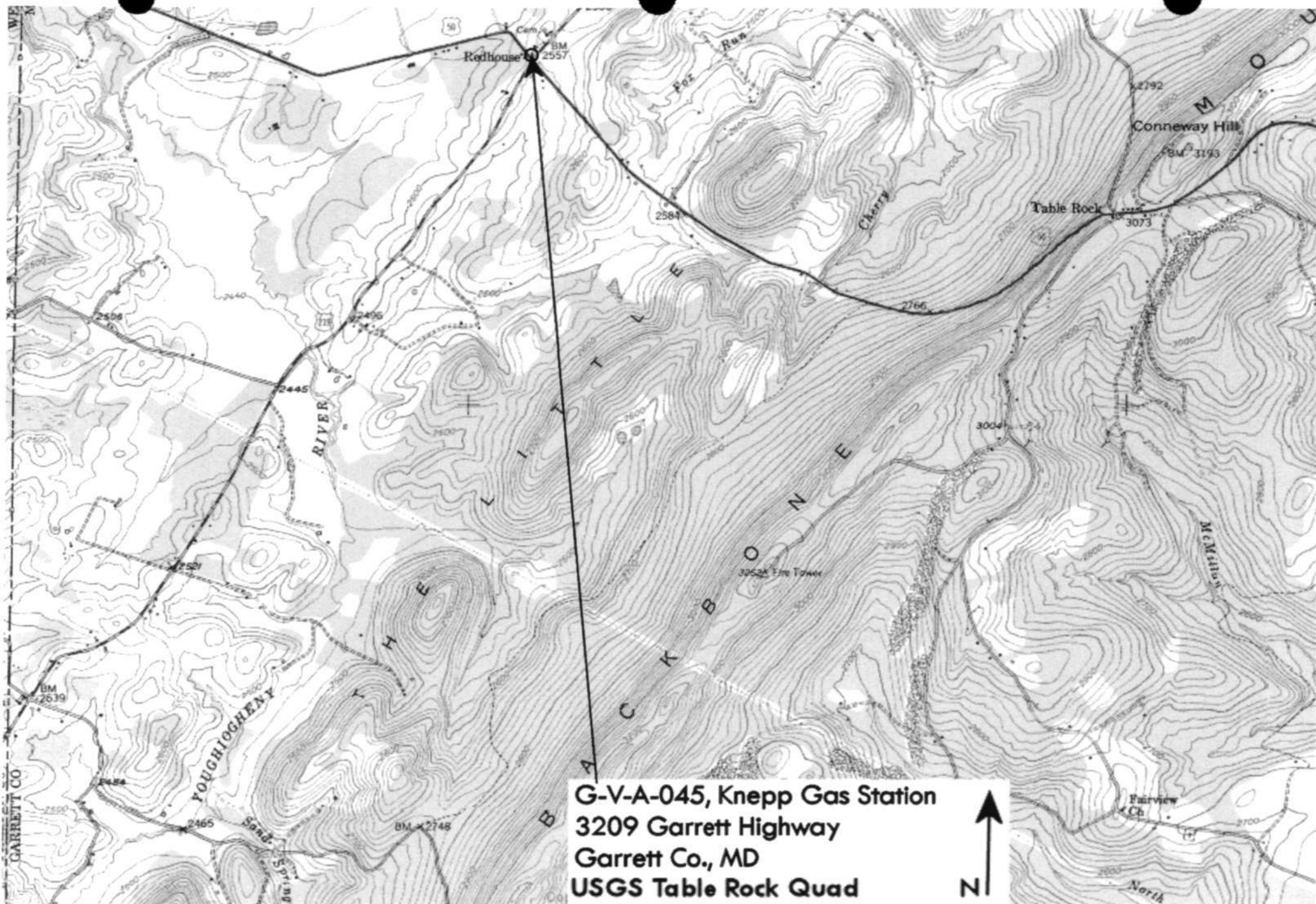
## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





RED HOUSE  
*Service Station*  
GAS & GROCERIES

G.V.A. 045  
Knepp Gas Station  
Garrett Co. MD  
Merry Stinson 8/24/05  
MD 15470  
SW & SE elev. s  
1 of 2





G.V.A. 045  
Knepp Gas Station (L)  
Garrett Co. MD  
Merry Stinson 8/24/05  
MD | SHPO  
N elev.  
2 of 2

G-V-A-045

Knepp Gas Station  
Redhouse  
Private

early 20th century

The Knepp Gas station and store consists of a 1-story, gable end facade frame structure, measuring 3 bays by 2 bays with a 1-story, 5 bay by 1 bay gable roofed frame wing protruding from the north elevation.

In its heyday this gas station was operated by the Knepp family. Although this building was once a fine example of an early 20th century combination gas station and store, it is now in ruins.



## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

G-V-A-045  
MAGI #1209924711  
M

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Knepp Gas Station

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route 219 &amp; 50, NW corner

CITY, TOWN

Redhouse

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: not in use**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

PROPERTY ADDRESS

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

G-V-A-045

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>pre-1930</u>

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Knepp Gas Station and Store stands in the NW corner of the intersection of Route 219 and 50, in Redhouse. The facade and porch were ruined by fire within the last five years; the structure is presently abandoned.

The station/store consists of a one-story, gable end facade frame structure, measuring three bays by two bays with a one-story, five bay by one bay gable roofed frame wing protruding from the north elevation.

The building rests on a poured concrete foundation. The main block of the station/store is covered with asbestos shingle siding. Original siding is weatherboard on the side elevations and wooden shingles on the facade. The wing has weatherboard siding on the east elevation at the south end; wooden shingles cover the remainder of the wing. The gable roof on both the main block and wing is covered with tarpaper. There is a central brick chimney in the main block, and based on historical photos (enclosed), there was also one in the wing.

The facade of the main block faces east toward Route 219 and has a central entrance flanked by two large store windows. These windows were 2/2 sash; they are presently boarded up.

Based on an historical photo(enclosed), the appearance of the facade porch can be reconstructed: the gable roof of the main block extended out over a drive-through for gasoline customers. It was supported by two posts covered with wooden shingles. The station was equipped with four gravity pumps, approximately 7 to 8 feet high.

The owner and operator of the station/store was the father of Ben Knepp, a resident of Redhouse. The Knepp family lived in the rear of the store and a portion of the wing. (interview with Ben Knepp.) The wing housed public bathrooms at the north end.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In its heyday this gas station was operated by the Knepp family. Although this building was once a fine example of an early 20th century combination gas station and store, it is now in ruins.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

G-V-A-045

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donna Ware, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

July 1981

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

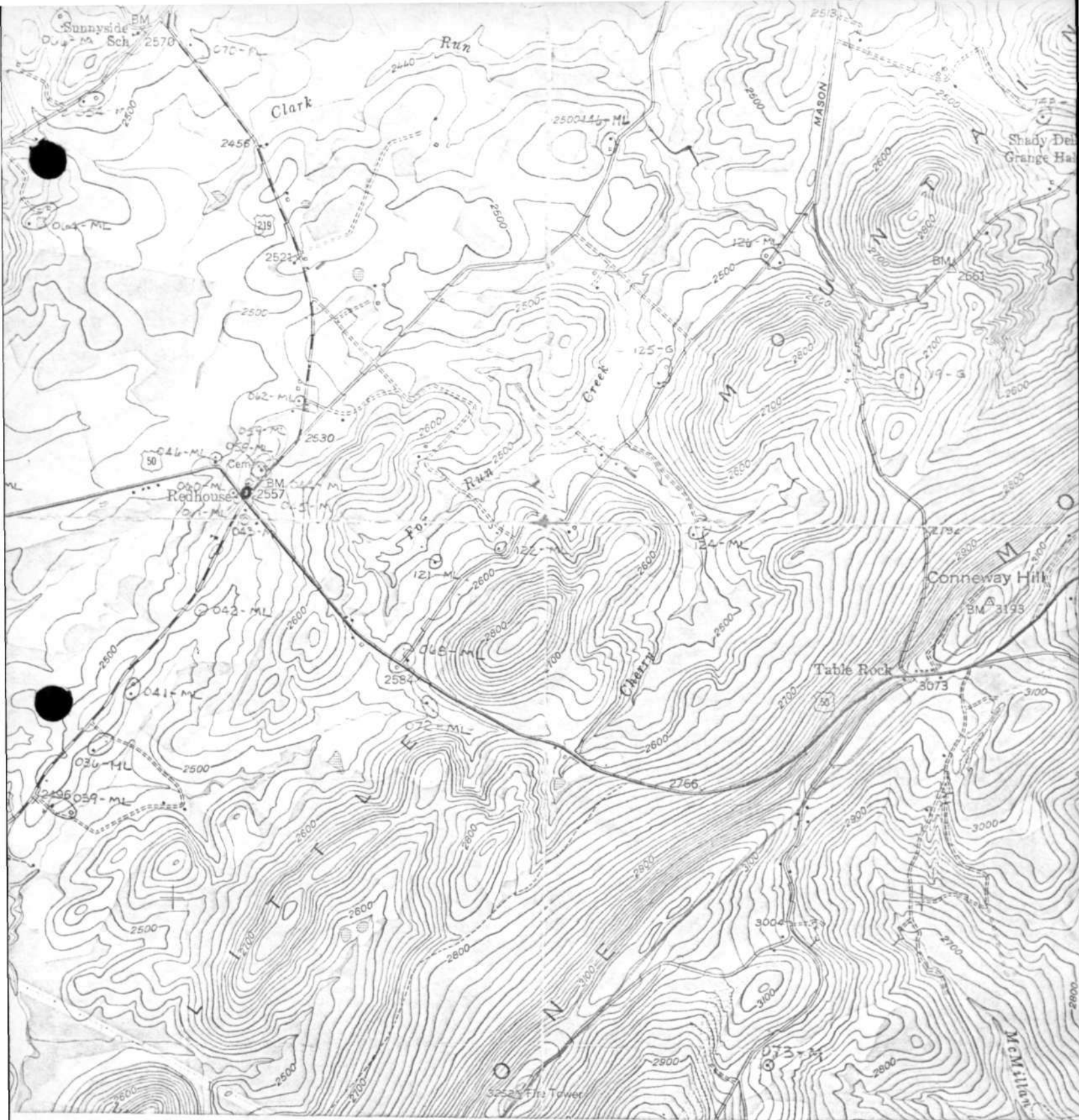


Table Rock MD:WV  
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series  
 Scale 1:24,000  
 1948; photorevised 1974

G-V-A-045  
 Knepp Gas Station & Store  
 Route 219 and 50, NW corner  
 Redhouse



G-V-A-045

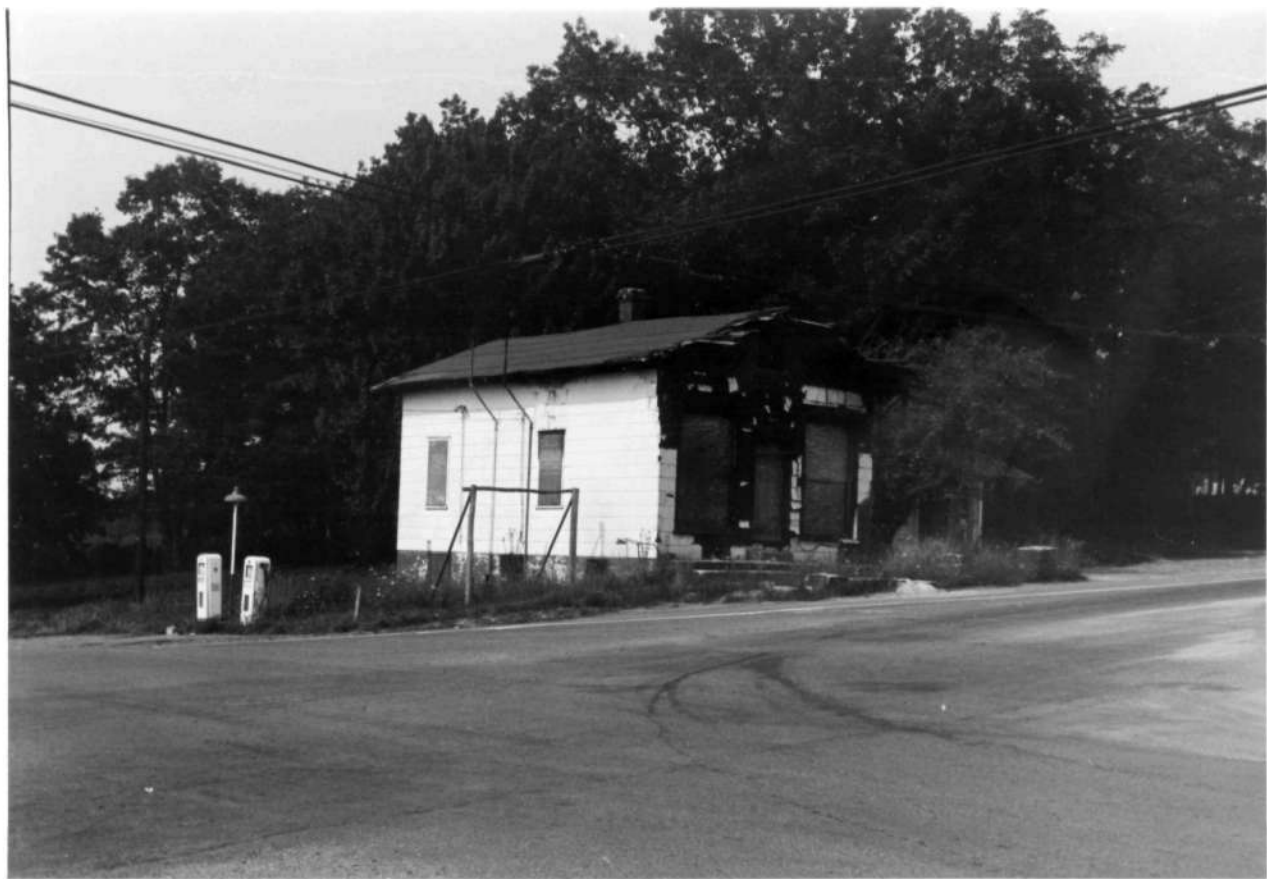
Knepp Gas Station

Garrett County, MD

Valerie Cesna (photocopy)

C.mid 1930's





G-V-A-045

Knepp Gas Station

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 8/28/80

E elev. (facade)

& S. elev.



Bertha Knapp, Clayton Mosser  
Benny & Catherine Knapp

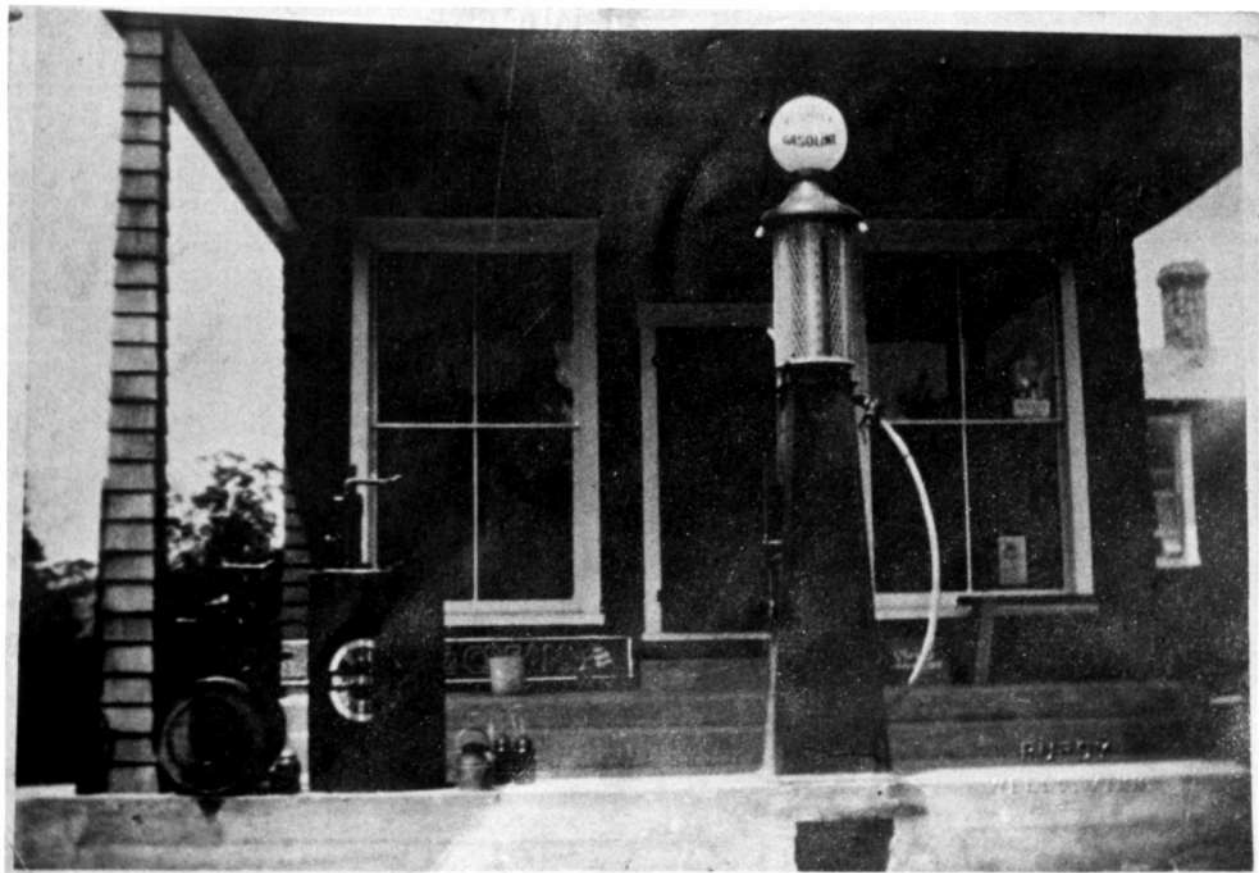
G-V-A-145

Knepp Gas Station

Garrett County, MD

Photocopy - V. Cesna

Knepp family - mid 1930's



G-V-A-045

Knepp Gas Station

Garrett County, MD

Valerie Cesna (photocopy)

c. mid-1930's





G-V-A-045

Knepp Gas Station

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 8/28/80

E elev. (Facade)